LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.   (Presently Amended) A multiple stage currency processing system, comprising:

a first currency processing stage including a plurality of first stage currency processing devices having at least one output receptacle, each of the first stage currency processing devices being adapted to denominate currency bills received in the first stage, the first stage being adapted to output a plurality of first batches of currency bills processed in the first stage, each first batch having an associated first total corresponding to the value of the currency bills in ~~the~~ a respective first batch;

a second currency processing stage for receiving first batches from the first stage, the second stage including at least one second stage currency processing device having a plurality of output receptacles, the at least one second stage currency processing device being adapted to denominate currency bills and to sort currency bills into the plurality of output receptacles, the at least one second stage device adapted to determine a second total associated with each first batch processed by the at least one second stage device, the second total corresponding to the value of the currency bills in ~~the~~ a first batch processed by the at least one second stage device, the second stage being adapted to output a plurality of second batches of currency bills processed in the second stage, each second batch having an associated third total corresponding to the value of the currency bills in ~~the~~ a respective second batch;

a third currency processing stage for receiving the second batches from the second stage, the third stage having a plurality of third stage currency processing devices having at least one output receptacle, each third stage device being adapted to count currency bills and to suspend operation when a predetermined number of currency bills are transported to the at least one output receptacle,

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the third stage devices being adapted to determine a fourth total associated with each second batch

processed by the third stage devices, each fourth total corresponding to the value of the currency

bills in ~~the~~ a respective second batch processed by third stage devices; and

a central processing unit interfaced with each of the first, second, and third stage currency

processing devices, the central processing unit adapted to receive information from each of the first,

second, and third stage currency processing devices, the central processing unit being adapted to

compare first totals to second totals, the central processing unit being adapted to compare third totals to

fourth totals.

2.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein each of the first stage devices includes

an operator interface adapted to receive information from an operator of the first stage device.

3.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the central processing unit is

adapted to control the operation of the at least one second stage currency processing device, ~~the~~ an

operator interface being adapted to receive information from an operator of the second stage currency

processing device.

4.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein each of the third stage devices includes

an operator interface adapted to receive information from an operator of the third stage device.

5.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein each second batch corresponds to the

currency contained in a storage cassette associated with one of the plurality of the output receptacles of

the second stage device.

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6.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~controller~~ <u>central processing unit</u> is adapted to record the operator associated with the processing of each first batch.

7.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~controller~~ <u>central processing unit</u> is adapted to record the first stage device associated with the processing of each first batch.

8.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein each first batch corresponds to all of the currency processed by a particular first stage device during a specific time period.

9.   (Original)   The system of claim 8 wherein the time period is one day.

10.   (Original)   The system of claim 8 wherein the time period corresponds to a work shift of an operator of a particular first stage device.

11.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein a first batch corresponds to all of the currency deposited by a specific customer.

12.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein the central processing unit is adapted to generate an error signal when a second total does not favorably compare to a first total.

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13.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein the central processing unit is adapted to generate an error signal when a third total does not favorably compare to a fourth total.

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one second stage currency processing device sorts currency bills according to denomination.

15.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of the third stage devices are adapted to determine the denomination of the currency bills.

16.   (Original)   The system of claim 15 wherein each of the plurality of third stage devices includes an operator interface adapted to receive input from an operator specifying a currency denomination to be processed.

17.   (Original)   The system of claim 16 wherein each of the plurality of third stage devices are adapted to generate a stranger error signal when a determined denomination of a currency bill does not match the specified denomination.

18.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 17 wherein the third stage devices have two output receptacles, each of the third stage devices being adapted to suspend operation upon generation of a stranger error signal.

19.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 17 wherein the third stage devices have a single output receptacle, each of the third stage devices being adapted to suspend operation upon generation of a stranger error signal.

20.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of first stage devices has two output receptacles.

21.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of first stage devices has a single output receptacle.

22.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of the first stage devices is adapted to evaluate the authenticity of currency bills.

23.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one second stage device is adapted to evaluate the authenticity of currency bills.

24.   (Original)   The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of third stage devices is adapted to evaluate the authenticity of currency bills.

25.   (Presently Amended) A method for processing currency bills with a multiple-stage currency processing system comprising a first stage including a plurality of first stage currency processing devices having at least one output receptacle, a second currency processing stage

including at least one currency processing device having a plurality of output receptacles, and a

third currency processing stage including a plurality of currency processing devices having at least

one output receptacle, the method comprising:

receiving currency bills to be processed in the first <u>stage</u> currency processing ~~stage~~ <u>devices</u>;

denominating the received currency bills with one or more of the first stage devices;

grouping currency bills denominated by the one or more first stage devices into a plurality of

first batches, each first batch having an associated first total corresponding to the value of currency

bills in the first batch;

receiving one or more of the first batches from the first <u>stage</u> currency processing ~~stage~~

<u>devices</u> in the <u>at least one</u> second <u>stage</u> currency processing ~~stage~~ <u>device</u>;

denominating the currency bills of each received first batch with the at least one second stage

currency processing device;

determining a second total for each received first batch with the at least one second stage

currency processing device, ~~the~~ <u>each</u> second total corresponding to the value of the currency bills in

~~the~~ <u>a</u> first batch;

comparing the first ~~total~~ <u>totals</u> to the second ~~total~~ <u>totals</u>;

sorting currency bills of each received first batch with the at least one second stage currency

processing device into a plurality of second batches, each second batch having an associated third

total corresponding to the value of currency bills in the second batch[[,]] <u>;</u>

receiving one or more second batches in the <u>one or more</u> third <u>stage</u> currency processing

~~stage~~ <u>devices</u>;

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counting the currency bills of each received second batch with one or more of the plurality

of third stage currency processing devices;

determining a fourth total for each received second batch with the one or more third stage

currency processing devices, ~~the~~ each fourth total corresponding to the value of the currency bills in

~~the~~ a second batch; and

comparing the third ~~total~~ totals to the fourth ~~total~~ totals.

26.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving information from

an operator of a first stage currency processing device via an operator interface.

27.   (Original)   The method of claim 26 wherein the information is selected from the

group consisting of a customer account number, a customer name, date, time, and a declared deposit

amount.

28.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising interfacing each of the

plurality of first stage currency processing devices, the at least one second stage currency processing

device, and each of the plurality of third stage currency processing devices with a central processing

unit.

29.   (Original)   The method of claim 28 wherein the central processing unit is adapted to

receive information from each of the plurality of first stage currency processing devices, the at least

one second stage currency processing device, and each of the plurality of third stage currency

processing devices.

30.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 wherein the plurality of second batches

correspond to the plurality of output receptacles of the at least one second stage currency processing

device.

31.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 wherein sorting further comprises sorting

according to denomination.

32.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 wherein grouping further comprises grouping

according to a predetermined criteria selected from the group consisting of an operator of the first stage

currency processing devices, a specific first stage device, currency processed by a first stage device

during a specific time period, and customer identification.

33.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising generating an error signal

when a second total does not favorably compare to a first total.

34.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising generating an error signal

when a third total does not favorably compare to a fourth total.

35.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim 25 ~~wherein counting the bills~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising determining the denomination of each of the currency bills with the one or more of the plurality of third stage currency processing devices.

36.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving input from an operator of the one or more third stage currency processing devices via an operator interface specifying a currency denomination to be processed.

37.   (Original)   The method of claim 36 wherein the one or more third stage devices are adapted to generate a stranger error signal when a determined denomination of a currency bill does not match the specified denomination.

38.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the one or more third stage ~~device has~~ devices have two output receptacles, the one or more third stage ~~device~~ devices being adapted to suspend operation upon generation of ~~the~~ a stranger error signal.

39.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the one or more third stage ~~device has~~ devices have two output receptacles, the one or more third stage ~~device~~ devices being adapted to off-sort ~~the~~ a currency bill triggering ~~the~~ a stranger error signal.

40.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the one or more third stage

~~device has~~ devices have a single output receptacle, the one or more third stage ~~device~~ devices being

adapted to suspend operation upon generation of ~~the~~ a stranger error signal.

41.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 wherein at least one of the plurality of first

stage devices has two output receptacles.

42.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 wherein at least one of the plurality of first

stage devices has a single output receptacle.

43.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising evaluating the authenticity

of the currency bills with one or more of the first stage currency processing devices.

44.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising evaluating the authenticity

of the currency bills of each received first batch with the at least one second stage currency processing

device.

45.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 further comprising evaluating the authenticity

of the currency bills of each received second batch with one or more of the plurality of third stage

currency processing devices.

46-74. (Canceled)

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75.   (Presently Amended) A multiple-stage currency processing system, comprising:

a first currency processing stage for receiving customer deposits including currency bills, the

first currency processing stage including a plurality of first stage currency processing devices each

being adapted to denominate currency bills, the first currency processing stage being adapted to

output a plurality of first batches of currency bills, each of the first batches corresponding to the

currency bills processed by an operator of the a first stage currency processing stage device during a

predetermined time period, each first batch having an associated first total corresponding to the

value of the currency bills in the a respective first batch;

a second currency processing stage for receiving first batches from the first stage, the second

stage including at least one second stage currency processing device having a plurality of output

receptacles, the at least one second stage currency processing device being adapted to denominate

currency bills and to sort currency bills of the received first batches into a plurality of second

batches, the at least one second stage device adapted to determine a second total associated with

each first batch processed by the at least one second stage device, the each second total

corresponding to the value of the currency bills in the a first batch processed by the at least one

second stage device, each second batch having an associated third total corresponding to the value

of the currency bills in the a respective second batch;

a third currency processing stage for receiving the second batches from the second stage, the

third stage having a plurality of third stage currency processing devices being adapted to count

currency bills of the received second batches, the third stage devices being adapted to determine a

fourth total associated with each second batch processed by the third stage devices, each fourth total

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corresponding to the value of the currency bills in ~~the~~ a respective second batch processed by third

stage devices; and

a central processing unit communicatively linked to each of the first, second and third stage

currency processing devices, the central processing unit being adapted to compare first totals to second

totals, the central processing unit being adapted to compare third totals to fourth totals.

76.   (Presently Amended) The currency processing system of claim ~~74~~ 75 wherein the

predetermined time period is selected from the group comprising one day, one hour, a half day, a

teller shift, and half a teller shift.

77.   (Presently Amended) The currency processing system of claim 75 wherein each of

the third stage devices is adapted to suspend operation after a predetermined number of currency

bills have been transported to an output receptacle of ~~the~~ a third stage device, the third stage device

being adapted to resume operation upon receipt of input from an operator of the third stage device.